advance booking. Such instructions were introduced by the airlines in July, 2003.

(c)and (d)Yes, Sir. The tariffs in respect of airlines is not regulated by Government and it is upto the airlines to fix the tariff and related concessions as per their economic viability and market conditions.

Air service to Myanmar from Delhi

1497. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect Myanmar from Delhi in view of the closure of Myanmar Airways from Delhi to Myanmar;

(b) whether Government consider to grant concession in air fare to senior citizens to Myanmar in view of its short time travel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As per the air services arrangements between India and Myanmar, the designated airlines of both sides are entitled to operate scheduled air services between Delhi and Myanmar. However, actual operation by any airline is always based on its commercial judgment keeping in view the traffic potential.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

NCW's directives on air-hostesses in Air India

1498.SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alleged discrimination of air-hostesses in Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any suggestion from the NCW in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) National Commission for Women has raised certain issues regarding discrimination with female air hostesses

of Air India. These issues are (i) Promotion of the female air-hostesses to the grade of In-flight Supervisor; (ii) Total inter-changeability of job functions between the male and female Cabin Crew;(iii) Flexibility of working conditions as per the discretion of the Management; (iv) Merger of *inter-se* seniority between the two cadres; and (v) Annual medical check-up for female Cabin Crew.

The Management of Air India in its Administrative Order dated 27.12.2005, has permitted female cabin crew to be promoted to the post of In-flight Supervisor, subject to suitability. Subsequent to issuance of this order, the Executive Cabin Crew filed a Writ Petition in the Delhi High Court (Writ Petition No. 2172 of 2006) against the same Order. While admitting the petition, the Hon'ble Court passed an interim order dated 6th January, 2006 by virtue of which the Management had implemented positioning of female executive cabin crew as In-flight Supervisor. However, against the aforesaid order of the Single Judge, two more Petitions have been filed before the Delhi High Court, who has directed all parties to negotiate in the matter and also to maintain *a status quo*.

The remaining issues will be discussed by Air India Management with Air India Cabin Crew Association as these are incidental to Petitions/ Appeal before the Delhi High Court.

Compassionate appointments in banks

1499. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointments in banks on compassionate grounds is not practised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether National Organisation of Bank Workers has urged to restore compassionate appointments;and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the case of Umesh Kumar Nagpal *Vs.* the State of Haryana [JT 1994 (3) SC 525], in 1994, has, *inter-alia* held that as a rule, appointment in the public services should be made strictly on the basis of open invitation of application and merit. In implementation of the norms laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a Model Scheme for payment of ex-gratia (lump-sum amount) in lieu of compassionate appointment was circulated by the